

**Subject:** RE: Sidewalk Vending Stakeholder Input

**From:** John Howland <jhowland@ccala.org>

**Date:** 11/12/2014 05:42 PM

**To:** "ari@historicbid.com" <ari@historicbid.com>, "jessica@southpark.la" <jessica@southpark.la>, "blair@historicbid.com" <blair@historicbid.com>, "mistyLI@aol.com" <mistyLI@aol.com>, Kent Smith <kent@fashiondistrict.org>

**CC:** Suzanne Holley <SHolley@downtownla.com>

I'm cutting the distribution on this reply to just the BIDs.

I just met with Commander Kato from LAPD to get an update on the street vending meetings. He met with Felipe two weeks ago. Prior to that, the last of the city working group meetings was in August. The working group is supposed to report back to the Econ Dev Cmte in the next couple of weeks. The Group is nowhere near being ready to present anything tangible to the Cmte, so they will ask for a 90 day extension.

Kato thinks that the CLA is stuck on how to set up the fee structure and that is why things are delayed. Any program is going to need a lot of money to pay for enforcement and regulation. Charge too little for a license and there's not enough money to do sufficient enforcement (and you get the next version of medical pot dispensary "regulation"). Charge too much for licenses and the vendors and their advocates scream that it's unfair, burdensome, etc.

We went over the San Francisco vending ordinance (you'll recall that I sent you info about that, solicited your views on it and then compiled them into an email back to Commander Kato). What he told me is that in SF, Public Works handles vending issues (regulation and enforcement). SF Pub Works has a 4 (four) minute response time to complaints. In LA, Bureau of Street Services (BSS) is being looked at to be the lead agency. However, Kato and LAPD have told the Working Group that BSS needs to be substantially beefed up if they are going to be in charge of this program. LAPD would only be a secondary response if there are problems for BSS or BSS is not available (LAPD doesn't have to resources to enforce any vending ordinance).

LA County Public Health is still requiring that food vending carts have a sink and running water. He said that these carts are basically "high end hot dog carts." Public Health acknowledges that there are not enough commissaries where carts can be stored and stocked (like with food trucks). So that department is willing to allow more commissaries in the City.

The Group right now is not focusing on zones where vending would be legal or banned. Instead they are looking at mandating that a 3-foot or more "walk space" be given on a sidewalk between any cart and the wall of a brick & mortar building. That is, the cart and vendor must give at least three feet of clearance to any structure. The commander's opinion of this is that this clearance requirement will eliminate "a lot" of commercial areas from being open to vending.

There are not too many areas in the City with vending problems, he said. Mostly Downtown, Venice and South LA (along all the major thoroughfares) and a few of the Valley's main roads. So this leaves a lot of the council districts on the periphery of this

issue.

What LAPD is looking for in any ordinance is “more leeway from the City Attorney to be able to just throw away the carts.” Public Health can throw away the carts if they are selling food. LAPD, unless the food is perishable, must impound everything (and catalogue and store it). The Police want some things in the ordinance so that, if they’re forced to enforce, they can do so with some teeth.

So, in sum, not much work has been done by the City Working Group for the past several months. (And my hunch is Felipe is trying to cover himself by saying he’s met with some of us).

Please let me know if you have questions before our meeting Friday.

John

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**From:** Felipe Valladolid Chavez [mailto:[felipe.v.chavez@lacity.org](mailto:felipe.v.chavez@lacity.org)]  
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**Cc:** Ivania Sobalvarro; Catherine Romero; Martin Schlageter; Marisa Alcaraz  
**Subject:** Sidewalk Vending Stakeholder Input

Good morning,

At the request of Council District 14, the Office of the Chief Legislative Analyst will be holding a meeting on Friday, November 14, 2014 to solicit public input on the issue of sidewalk vending. The meeting will be held at 2:00 PM in the Media Room at City Hall. If you'd like to attend and need parking arrangements, please contact Catherine Romero who is cc'd on this e-mail. Please forward any names of individuals you believe would be interested in attending.

- Felipe

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